

THE GREAT UFO ENIGMA

Some thoughts on interesting points made in a new book

Charles Bowen

IT is always an agreeable experience to read a new book on a side of the UFO phenomenon which has been carefully investigated and researched. Such a book is **The Dyfed Enigma**, by **Randall Jones Pugh** and **F. W. Holiday**,* which was inspired by the mass of UFO and humanoid incidents which were reported in the south western corner of Wales during 1977.

Very much in the book's favour is the fact that its authors each lived and worked in the area for a great part of their lives, Pugh as a veterinary surgeon, and Holiday as a writer and a regular columnist with *The Western Mail*. They knew the country and the people very well, and the idea of chronicling and commenting on the remarkable series of events, came to them early on in the wave. That much I gathered from correspondence with them, and the occasional telephone conversation; I knew too, thanks to the valuable contributions made by each of them to *Flying Saucer Review*, that with Holiday's skilful and fluent professionalism, and Pugh's easy style, we could expect a well-written book, which is just what it turned out to be. We are lucky that the arrival on the West Wales scene of paperback writers did not pressure them into trying to force the pace. Unhappily, however, poor Ted Holiday did not live to see the book published; he died on February 23, 1979.

Some of the book's recorded events have already been dealt with in FSR but now, in *The Dyfed Enigma*, they appear usually with enhanced detail, and often with new details. Furthermore they can now be appreciated in the true context as part of the on-going phenomenon in the region. Nevertheless there are also many cases which will be new to FSR readers, like the report of a "space ship" seen, at 3.00 a.m. one morning, hovering just above a window of a house in Milford Town, while a small humanoid figure stood on the window sill. There was also the unnerving double encounter of a lady driving home from Carmarthen to Ferryside on the River Towy, who was greeted in a most unaccustomed manner by her three dogs, one of which went on to suffer strange (psychological?) effects. Again, there was the case of a humanoid figure seen close to a sewage works at Herbrandston. There are many more besides these to whet the reader's appetite.

Study of, and speculation about the recorded phenomena is to be found in two chapters. The first of these, No. 6, is entitled "The ley correlation." To my way of thinking the leys shown in the example maps are largely unconvincing 2-point lines, and on that basis the locations of UFO sightings could be said to be correlated with almost any straight line (= the shortest distance between two points) connecting ancient works, tumuli, knapps, standing stones and various antiquities, anywhere in the country.

The other chapter is No. 8, "Is there a 'Goblin Universe'?" After making a valid point — based on reported reactions to the phenomena — that there is "something apparently objective and external . . ." the authors state that there is no evidence that the extraordinary (UFO) activity comes from outer space "even though this is a view widely popular among cultists." Further on we find that "according to folklore such (*objective and external*) activity was not associated with space and the stars; but rather with supra-dimensions of being which are today conveniently categorised as 'the paranormal'." Again: "The notion that UFOs are 'visiting' the earth on some explorative venture strikes us as simplistic in the extreme. If such assumption is made, the evasive nature of UFO-human contacts seems entirely illogical."

The authors pursue their interesting argument through several pages and suggest eventually that there is a "Goblin Universe," and that all instances of the phenomenon could be a result of the tricks played by elemental beings on human observers, appearing throughout the decades, indeed throughout the centuries. And, as John Keel has written before, the frames of reference in which the manifestations are witnessed, have always kept just ahead of the state of knowledge and technology existing at the time of the manifestation.

Naturally there will be many — and not only "cultists" — who will challenge this argument. For instance, it could be said that it is equally hard to believe that there is any evidence that the extraordinary UFO activity is manipulated by elemental beings despite the fact that (*p.143*) "work over the last thirty years by parapsychologists in various countries into such phenomena as telepathy and precognition gives ground for supposing that . . . a supra-dimension, or dimensions, may indeed exist." Over the years contributors to FSR have pondered the existence of parallel universes and the possibility that they could be the source of the enigmatic UFO visitants. Nevertheless we have not lost sight of the fact that work over the last thirty years by astronomers in various countries gives ground for supposing that a plurality of star systems with life-bearing planets may indeed exist. Should but one of these have developed a civilisation of some sort, with a technology well in advance of ours (and therefore, in Arthur C. Clarke's words, like magic to us) it could, provided it had located us, monitor our earth's development either directly, or perhaps by long-distance orbiting probe, and use all manner of techniques, even illogical to us, should it be studying human reactions.

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Such an alien observer could have a vested interest in what goes on down here, in our ecology, in the progressive pollution and subsequent deterioration of our environment, in our systematic destruction, with defoliants and the bulldozer, of our sources of oxygen, and in this he/it would be no different from the elemental "ufonauts" postulated by Pugh and Holiday. Indeed any extraterrestrial alien in earth's vicinity could be just as deeply interested as elementals in the chance of us all ending up with a bang.

There being no proof that either of these possibilities is the correct one — and the generally derided illogicalities

of the "contactees" and their messages are rarely considered as proof — then we are faced with the perennial UFO enigma, uneasily aware that there is still no knowledge regarding the stimulus that triggers the manifestations of the phenomenon, and that everything remains a matter of speculation. Accordingly we feel it better to keep all options open for, after all, it has been suggested that there could well be more than one stimulus with, perhaps, one mimicking the other!

The Dyfed Enigma is an excellent and thought-provoking book and, possessing great value in its recorded detail as well, is highly recommended.

FSR BOOKSHELF — 2

New UFO books reviewed by . . .

Janet & Colin Bord

PROBABLY one of the most remarkable books so far published that deals with a UFO abduction case is **The Andreasson Affair** by **Raymond E. Fowler** (Prentice-Hall, USA, hardback, \$8.95; if UK readers cannot obtain this through their usual supplier of UFO books, they should contact International Book Distributors Ltd., 66 Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 4RG). It is noteworthy for the thoroughness with which the team of American investigators conducted the hypnotic regression sessions, the detailed information they elicited from Betty Andreasson during the sessions, and her sketches of what she saw during her incredible experience.

It all started in January 1967 when three UFO entities came into her home one night and persuaded her to board a UFO which was hovering outside in the yard. She was away for several hours, during which time she was conducted through various sections of the UFO, suffered a sometimes painful physical examination including the insertion of long needles into her nose and navel, and was taken on a trip to an undefined 'place' where she received a symbolic vision of a phoenix and an audible message from 'God' saying 'I have chosen you.' When she was later returned to her home the entities left with her a blue book containing symbols 'of initiation' which she was encouraged to study, until it disappeared after a few days. Of special interest is that during one of the hypnotic sessions one of the entities seemed to take Betty over and was in direct communication with the investigators.

For eight years Betty Andreasson shared her secret with only her eldest daughter Becky, who was a partial witness to her mother's abduction. Then Betty wrote to Dr. Hynek at CUFOS from where her letter eventually found its way to the MUFON investigators in Massachusetts, the state in which the events took place. Fourteen hypnotic regression and debriefing sessions were conducted from April to July 1977 and since then the investigators have continued to maintain contact with Mrs. Andreasson.

Both the author and the MUFON investigative team appear to have done a thorough job and maintained a

sane balance as the incredible events were relived. Part of the value of this book is that it is not 'retold,' but consists principally of transcripts from the tapes of the sessions, interspersed with some comment by the author. There is a section of photographs of the people involved, including several of Quazgaa, the entities' leader, but unfortunately these are only of a model. And there are many competent sketches by Betty Andreasson which give an added dimension to the whole account.

The overall impression given is that the material within this admirable report reinforces the trend of similar cases. CE3s are neither accidental nor haphazard, and it must be increasingly difficult for advocates of the ETH to maintain that such reports are of interplanetary explorers simply gathering biological data.

Two other searchers for the illusive truth are Henry Gris and William Dick, staff journalists on the *National Enquirer* in the USA. Their brief was to travel in the USSR and report the latest parapsychological research, or as much of it as they were allowed to see. The results are published in **The New Soviet Psychic Discoveries** (Souvenir Press hardback, £5.50) which has over 300 pages and with an informal non-technical approach covers topics from telepathy and telekinesis to Kirlian research and dermo-optical perception. In between they managed an interview with Professor Felix Zigel, a leading Russian UFO researcher, from which it appears that the UFO situation is not so very different there than it is in the West. When asked if there had been any cases of UFO landings, with crews or humanoids seen, he replied that 'Reports of this nature have not reached me to date.' From other scientists they heard of tektites, the search for signals from space, the Tunguska (Tungusky) 'meteorite' (which Professor Aleksei Zolotov said was a compact nuclear device) and the Abominable Snowman of the Caucasus. A useful compendium on some of the recent thinking in Russian scientific circles, this book has an index and a photo section and is good value at £5.50.